



### **Welsh Hill, Clifford Township, Susquehanna County, PA**

The Welsh settlement of Welsh Hill was begun by Thomas and Hannah Watkins, natives of Carmaerthenshire, South Wales, who left Wales in 1831, and after a voyage of two months, landed in New York. In 1832, they were in Carbondale, where Mr. Watkins worked in the anthracite mines. On May 10, 1833, they moved to Clifford Township and bought 50 acres of timber land, for \$3 an acre, near the southwest base of the South Knob of Elk Mountain. In 1834, they were joined by other Welsh families and a permanent Welsh settlement, which soon became known as Welsh Hill, was established.

These pioneer Welsh settlers at Welsh Hill organized a church (an offspring of the First Welsh Congregational Church of Clifford) as early as 1834. The first church meeting house of this Welsh community was built in 1839 on what was then known as Cambria Hill. The present Bethel Congregational Church building was dedicated on June 10, 1888. Welsh hymn sings and song gatherings ("Gymanfaoedd") have been held regularly there since 1933, on the fourth Sunday of June and the fourth Sunday of September at 3 P.M.

Presented here is a small collection of papers about Welsh Hill, Clifford Township, Susquehanna County, PA.

S. Robert Powell  
February 20, 2022

# Welsh hymn sing conducted at Clifford Twp. church

By S. Robert Powell

## Part I

A Welsh hymn sing and song gathering, known to the Welsh as a "Gymanfa Ganu," was held in the Bethel Congregational Church, Welsh Hill, Clifford Township, on Sunday, June 26.

As the participants arrived at the historic church for this Welsh song service, they were given song sheets for the festival by Stacey and Jamie Mackey, granddaughters of the conductor for the afternoon service, Donald T. Davis.

Welcoming music was performed by Mrs. Betty Moore on the piano and by Miss Maude Thomas on the organ. Miss Thomas was formerly on the faculty of Princeton, N.J. University, and taught piano, organ and voice. She and Mrs. Moore are sisters.

At 3:00 p.m. the church's tower bell was rung and the song service began with welcoming remarks by the pastor of the Bethel Congregational Church, Reverend Garford F. Williams, who invited everyone present to the Church House for a Welsh tea after the Gymanfa Ganu.

Rev. Williams offered a prayer in which he gave thanks to God for, among other things, the gift of song that has been given to man. Rev. Williams then introduced the conductor for the song festival, Donald T. Davis of Scranton.

Mr. Davis asked those in the church who were newcomers to the Gymanfa Ganu at Welsh Hill to raise their hands, and then asked: "Are you Welsh?" He then quickly added: "Everyone's Welsh today. Welcome to this service dedicated to the glory of Jesus Christ."

The singing began with "Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau" (The Land of My Fathers), with a repetition of the chorus to this song, which goes as follows: "Wales, Wales! Fav'rite land of Wales/ While sea her wall, may naught befall/ To mar the old language of Wales." This was followed with the singing of "Diadem - All Hail the Power."

Mrs. Shirley McLaughlin and Mr. Warren Grill of the Clarks

Summit Presbyterian Church then sang "Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord," accompanied on the piano by Miss Thomas.

The congregation then sang the first verse of "Sandon," which was immediately repeated by only the ladies. The entire congregation then sang the second verse to this song. The congregation then sang twice in Welsh the first verse and chorus of "Rachie - Onward Christian Soldiers." This was followed by a singing of the first verse and chorus of this well known hymn in English.

The congregation then sang twice in Welsh the second verse of "Penpark - Jesus I Live to Thee." This was followed by a singing in English by the ladies of the first verse to this hymn. The entire congregation then sang, a capella, in English the second verse of this song, which goes as follows: "Jesus, I die to Thee,/ Whenever death shall come;/ To die in Thee is life to me/ In my eternal home." The entire congregation then sang again in Welsh the second verse of this hymn.

The afternoon offering was then collected. The offering plates were passed by Maxey Brink, Nicholas Whengreen and Joseph Sammon.

Mr. Davis then polled the congregation to determine where the participants lived. The majority of the congregation appeared to be from an area 20 miles in radius from the church. Present, however, were persons from Utica, NY, Moscow, PA, and from the Binghamton, NY area.

The congregation, under Mr. Davis' direction, then sang in English "Pen Y Bryn" and "How Great Thou Art." This was followed with two performances in Welsh and one in English of "Calon Lan - I Seek Not Life's Ease and Pleasure."

Mr. Clarence Decker then sang "Just a Closer Walk with Thee." This was followed with a piano and organ run through by Mrs. Moore and Miss Thomas of "Crimond." The entire congregation then sang

this musical version of the Twenty-Third Psalm.

Mr. Davis then led the congregation in the singing of "Blodwen," which Mr. Davis identified as his favorite song. "I wish there were 19 verses of 'Blodwen' so that we could sing them all," said he. Mrs. Moore and Miss Thomas then played through the song once to familiarize the entire group with the song. The congregation then sang in English the first verse twice, which was followed by a singing of the second verse, and then a repeat of the first verse.

Mr. Warren Grill and Mrs. Shirley McLaughlin, from the Clarks Summit Presbyterian Church, then sang "May We Worship You," accompanied on the piano by Miss Thomas, who is the organist and choir leader for the Clarks Summit Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Moore and Miss Thomas then played through "Aberystwyth" to re-familiarize the congregation with the song, and the congregation then sang together this song. This was followed with the singing of the first verse and refrain of "Make Me a Blessing" by the entire congregation. The ladies then sang the second verse and were joined in the refrain by the men. The men sang the third verse and were joined in the chorus by the ladies.

Mr. Clarence Decker then sang "He Touched Me," accompanied on the organ by Miss Thomas.

Mr. Davis then remarked: "I want to take home with me the goose bumps that I had when you sang 'Blodwen,' and so I'd like you to sing again the first verse of 'Blodwen.'" The congregation, accordingly, sang again the first verse of "Blodwen," and were complimented by Mr. Davis for their fine singing.

The congregation then sang "Cwm Rhondda - Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah," with two repetitions of the final two lines of the third stanza, which goes as follows: "When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears sub-

side, Bear me through the swelling torrent, Land me safe on Canaan's side, Songs of praises, I will ever give to Thee."

The three soloists for the afternoon's song festival were then asked to come forward and were given a round of applause by the participants. The soloists remained at the front of the church and the Gymanfa Ganu concluded with the entire congregation's singing of "God Be With You Till We Meet Again."

Rev. Williams then offered a Benediction, after which he remarked: "The last Sunday in September we will do this again. You are all invited."

The majority of the participants in the song festival then crossed the road to the Church House and were served tea and coffee and a wide variety of cookies by the ladies of the church.

(In next week's NEWS, a history of the Welsh settlement at Welsh Hill, Clifford Township, and of the Bethel Congregational Church will be presented.)

Carbondale (Pa.) News, Wednesday, August 17, 1988

# Welsh settled in Clifford Township

By S. Robert Powell

## Part II

(In last week's NEWS, we presented Part I of this two-part article on the Welsh settlers of Clifford Township. Part I was an account of the Gymanfa Ganu that was held on Sunday, June 26, at Welsh Hill. In Part II, a history of the Welsh settlement of Welsh Hill and of the Bethel Congregational Church is presented.)

The Welsh settlement of Welsh Hill was begun by Thomas and Hannah Watkins, natives of Carmarthenshire, South Wales, who left that country in 1831, and after a voyage of two months landed in New York. In 1832 they were in Carbondale, where Mr. Watkins worked in the anthracite mines. On May 10, 1833, they came to Welsh Hill in Clifford Township and bought 50 acres of timber land, for \$3 per acre, near the southwest base of the South Knob of Elk Mountain.

In 1834, Mr. and Mrs. Watkins were joined by other Welsh families and a permanent Welsh settlement was established. The arrivals in 1834 were: Zachariah Jenkins, David Moses, David Anthony, David Reese, William P. Davis, Rev. Thomas Edwards, David Edwards, Evan Jenkins (his son, John C. Jenkins, became Prime Minister of Australia), Robert Ellis, and their families.

Robert Ellis, a native of North Wales, had been in America for several years before he moved from New York to the Welsh settlement at Elk Hill. All of the other arrivals in 1834 were from South Wales, they having left from Swansea on May 21, 1834, in a brig bound for Quebec. They were seven weeks on the water before landing at Quebec. Three of the families on board remained in Canada; the others all came to Clifford Township in 1834.

The second party of immigrants to Welsh Hill came soon after, but they had been located at Carbondale two or three years previously. Among them were David J. and David E. Thomas, Evan Jones (from North Wales), Job Nicholas, and John Michael. By 1887, there were more than 300 Welsh persons living in Clifford Township, Gibson and Herrick Center.

These pioneer Welsh settlers on

Welsh Hill organized a church as early as 1834. This church is the offspring of the First Welsh Congregational Church of Clifford. Thomas Edwards was the first pastor at Welsh Hill. He served as pastor until the close of 1835, when he accepted a call to Pittsburgh. The meetings, which were organized by William Hughes, were held at the house of Zachariah Jenkins, on Cambria Hill. The first Sunday School was organized with Daniel Harris and Henry Davis as superintendents and Evan Jenkins as secretary and treasurer.

In 1836, Rev. Jenkin Jenkins, a son of Zachariah, finished his studies in Auburn Theological Seminary, NY, and took charge of the Presbyterian Church at Dunderdaff and also of the Welsh Church at Elk Hill. He preached at both churches for nearly seven years (until 1843), and then moved to Illinois. In 1837, the Rev. Jenkins joined the Presbytery at Montrose and persuaded the church at Welsh Hill to do likewise, but the church never forsook its first principles of Congregationalism and again became Congregational. It thus withdrew from the Presbytery and united with the Welsh Association.

At the time Rev. Jenkins left the congregation, it was comprised of the following families or single persons: Thomas Watkins, Daniel Moses, Noah Owens, David Edwards, David Anthony, David J. Thomas, Henry Davis, John Howells, David Evans, William Rowell, William P. Davies, Robert Ellis, Evan Jenkins, Jenet Jenkins, John Michael, Sarah Bell, David Richards, David Rees, David Moss, Edward Hughes, Benjamin Daniels, Mary James, John Davis, Daniel Davis, Guenellian Reynolds, Daniel Harris, Mary Jones, Thomas Evans, Lewis Evans, Evan Jones, Elizabeth Owens, Margaret Harris, David E. Thomas, and Job Nicholas.

From 1843 to 1850, Rev. Samuel A. Williams served as pastor of the church. He was succeeded in 1850 by Rev. Daniel Daniels, who was born in Glamorganshire, South Wales, in 1816, and came to this country at the age of 16 with his parents. They stayed briefly in

See Welsh page 19

Carbondale and then moved to Springbrook, Lackawanna County, where his parents died.

Rev. Daniels was licensed to preach in 1842, and in 1847 he was ordained to the ministry. He served as pastor of the church for 43 years. There is today a plaque at the front of the church which reads as follows: "In Memoriam — Rev. Daniel Daniels Born 1816 - Died 1895, Pastor of this church forty three years His faithful ministry and co-operation in building this edifice are gratefully remembered by this congregation." It was during the pastorate of Rev. Daniels that the present Bethel Congregational Church was erected.

The Bethel Congregational Church became an incorporated body on April 12, 1869, on the petition of Samuel Owens, Thomas R. Davis, Evan Jenkins, Thomas Reynolds, David J. Thomas, Thomas Watkins and Henry Davis. In 1887, there were 90 members in the congregation, of whom Samuel Owens and Richard Davis were deacons, and Walter M. Leek was the clerk.

In 1893, the first English preaching began, under the pastorate of the Rev. J. Alex. Jenkins. In the year 1896, the Rev. Noah Bevan accepted a call to the pastorate. At that time, a portion of the services were still being held in Welsh, and the English constituency, principally composed of young persons, were desirous of more English services, which led to the pastorate of the Rev. R. N. Harris, whose ministry began on January 1, 1901.

In 1902, the deacons were: Owen Owens, John Moses, Edward A. Reynolds, and William G. Richards; the deaconesses were: Elizabeth Reese and Maggie Davis; the trustees were: George H. Reynolds, John Watkins, Morgan Morgans, Ollie C. Jones, and Albert T. Leek. The church clerk at that time was Mary E. Richards.

The first church meeting house of this Welsh community was built in 1839 on what was then known as "Cambria Hill," in the rear of the Samuel Owens, Sr. homestead, during the pastorate of Rev. Jenkin Jenkins. This first church stood where the old Grange Hall is on the corner. The first officers of the church were: Zachariah Jenkins, Thomas Watkins, William Hughes, David Rees, David Anthony, Sr., Edward Hughes, Daniel Moses,

Daniel Harris, David Edwards, Henry Davis and Benjamin Daniels (his great grandson was the Honorable George W. Maxey, Judge of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, historian, orator, respected jurist, and long time resident of Scranton).

After several years, this first meeting house (a log structure, 12 feet by 40 feet) was found to be inadequate to the accomodation of the increasing settlement, and in 1848 it was torn down and a better and somewhat larger building erected under the pastorate of Lewis Williams.

This second church, a frame building, stood between where the first church building stood and the present Bethel Congregational Church. It was a building 31 feet by 45 feet, and was erected in the summer of 1850, during the pastorate of Rev. Daniel Daniels. The building committee was composed of Rev. Daniel Daniels, Evan Jenkins, Edward Hughes, John Reynolds and Benjamin Daniels.

In the summer of 1864, it was remodeled by the addition of a lecture room, 20 feet by 26 feet, and a tower, 11 feet by 11 feet, with a vestibule. A bell was installed in the tower. The building committee for the remodeling was under the direction of John Watkins, Samuel Daniels, Walter M. Leek, David Davis, and E. K. Anthony. This remodeled church was later torn down.

The third church building, the present Bethel Congregational Church building, was dedicated on June 10, 1888.

Much of the history of the Bethel Congregational Church that is reported here has been learned from two extraordinary books about Susquehanna County: 1) Emily C. Blackman's "History of Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, From a Period Preceding its Settlement to Present Times, Including the Annals and Geography of Each Township..., 1873;" and 2) Rhamanthus M. Stocker's "Centennial History of Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, 1887."

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Similarly, we are pleased to here express our thanks to the present pastor of the Bethel Congregational Church, the Rev. Garford F. Williams, who graciously read over this two-part article on the June 26 Gymanfa Ganu at Welsh Hill and on the history of the Bethel Congregational Church and made corrections and proposed revisions to the final draft. Rev. Williams, in addition, referred the author to a work entitled "History of the Welsh Congregational Churches in Pennsylvania," which gives a history of each of the churches as well as a biography of the ministers.

In addition to the plaque in memory of Rev. Daniels at the front of the Bethel Congregational Church, there are two other memorial plaques at the front of the church. The text on the one reads as follows: "In Memory of Ellen Ellis Owens 1828-1901 Erected by her friends, in remembrance of her patient sufferings and in grateful recognition of her gift of One Thousand Dollars, to be known as the Ellen E. Owens' Bequest. 'She hath done what she could.' Unveiled September 28, 1902."

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**Welsh**

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Starting our 14th year!



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# SOCIAL SCENE

## Clifford, Pa.

By Lionel Satterthwaite

The Welsh Hill Congregational Church of West Clifford, Pennsylvania held its annual Gymanfa Ganu Sept. 25, with the service at 3 p.m.

The Rev. Garford Williams, host pastor, chaired the popular songfest.

Highlighting the afternoon was a memorial service that was dedicated to the late William Morgan, a well-loved soloist and singer of Welsh music, particularly hymns.

Mr. Morgans, who died June 30, gave freely of his time and talent for many, many years singing Welsh songs. The congregation, as always, joined to sing the beautiful Welsh hymns. Mr. Clarence, soloist in the St. David's Welsh Male Chorus, Scranton, provided the special music.

Another welcome surprise was the tenor solos presented by David Evans. Mr. Evans is visiting the area from Wales. Leading the congregational singing was Donald Davis of Scranton. The accompanists were made Maude Thomas and Betty Moore.

Everyone attending enjoyed the fellowship and refreshment following the songfest.

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A Gymanfa Ganu was held recently at Bethel Congregational Church, Welsh Hill, Clifford Township.

Conductor was Donald T. Davis. Pianist was Mrs. Betty Moore, and organist was Miss Maude Thomas, a former piano, organ and voice teacher on the faculty of Princeton (New Jersey) University.

Pastor the Rev. Garford F. Williams gave the welcome.

Soloists included Shirley McLaughlin and Warren Grill of Clarks Summit Presbyterian Church and Clarence Decker.

Following the song festival, a Welsh tea was served at the Church House.

## Obituaries

### D. Clifford Reynolds

Daniel Clifford Reynolds, RD 1 Uniondale, died Thursday at St. Joseph's Hospital, Carbon-dale. His wife is the former Josephine Gardner.

Born in Welsh Hill, Clifford Twp., son of the late Edward and Catherine Jones Reynolds, he was a retired farmer and was a member of the Welsh Hill Congregational Church. He was a 50-year member of the Masonic Hartford Lodge 445; a 60-year member of Cambrin Grange and a charter member of the Clifford Township Fire Co.

Also surviving are a sister, Mrs. Ruth Hasbrouck, Clifford; several nieces and nephews.

A sister, Helen, preceded him in death.

The funeral will be Monday at 2 p.m. at the Welsh Hill Congregational Church with the Rev. Garford S. Williams, and Rev. David Allen, officiating. Interment, Welsh Hill cemetery.

Friends may call Sunday, 2 to 4, 7 to 9 p.m. at the Shifler-Parise-Scotchlas Funeral Home Inc., 102 Dundaff St., Clifford. Masonic service, Sunday, 7:30 p.m.

a nice man.  
I spoke with  
him at the  
Gymnastics  
Game in  
June 1988.

# Gymanafa Canu

Welsh Festival Of Music

"Praise Ye The Lord!"

Psalm 150

THE  
WELSH DRAGON



SUNDAY JUNE 24, AT 3:00 P.M.

WEST HILL CHURCH

WEST CLIFFORD, PA.

REV. KENNETH McCREA, PASTOR

## Gymanfa Ganu at Welsh Hill on June 25th

The Rev. Kenneth McCrea, Pastor at Bethel Congregational Church, Welsh Hill, Union Dale RD, has announced the scheduling of Gymanfa Ganu in the Church Sanctuary on Sunday, June 25, at 3:00 p.m. The Welsh songfest will be lead by Mr. Donald Davis of Scranton. He will be assisted by Ms. Maude Thomas at the organ and Mrs. Betty Moore at the piano. Mr. Clarence Decker and his sister will sing a duet. Mrs. Melody Klinger will sing two solos.

The Welsh people, the Cymry, were known centuries ago for their joyous and good singing. Giraldus, writing as early as 1188, spoke of their skill in vocal music, especially singing in parts, not just unison. Gymanfa Ganu, roughly translated as Assembly or Festival for Sacred Song, began in the chapels and churches which dotted the hills and vales of Cambria. Congregations would remain after regular worship for an hour of rehearsal, each Sunday, of hymns and Anthems to be used at Gymanfa.

During the years when Puritan influence was very strong in Wales, singing was unaccompanied by any instrument. As the song leader would give the pitch, the congregation would begin their great praises to God in singing. It would usually be in four parts.

The tradition has developed in America where the Cymry have settled. The good Welsh tradition, in America, is once again wedded with instruments. Gymanfa Ganu is a time of hearty singing of thanksgiving and praise to God. The humblist, poorest human can be a full part of the songfest.

Te Bach, the sharing of Welsh tea and cookies following the Festival, has become a part of the tradition in America. Bethel Church will continue this tradition with Te Bach at its Church House following the Gathering for Singing. The Ladies' Aid of the Church will do the honors.

# Gymanfa Ganu celebrated in Clifford

By S. Robert Powell

The annual September Gymanfa Ganu at the Bethel Congregational Church, Welsh Hill, Clifford Township, took place on Sunday, September 24, beginning at 3 p.m. The church was decorated for the occasion with pink and purple African violets and a bouquet of dahlias. A black banner with a red Welsh dragon on it was hung at the front of the lectern for the occasion.

This "Festival of Sacred Song" began with welcoming remarks by Rev. Kenneth McCrea, pastor of the church, who asked the group if they noticed anything different about the church building since the June 1989 Gymanfa Ganu. He then pointed out the new ceiling fans, the indirect lighting just below the level of the ceiling, and the new commemorative marble plaque on the wall of the sanctuary. The text on the new plaque, which is of the same style as the three older plaques on the sanctuary's walls, is as follows: "In honor of the Rev. Garford F. Williams, 1956-1988, in thanksgiving

to God for his long and faithful service to God's kingdom and this congregation."

Rev. McCrea then introduced Donald T. Davis, the song leader for the service, who asked everyone present to stand and to shake the hand of at least four other persons in the church. This resulted in the establishment of a relaxed and cordial atmosphere throughout the church. The congregation, led by Mr. Davis, then sang the Welsh national anthem, "Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau" (The Land of My Fathers). This was followed with the singing of "Diadem - All Hail the Power."

Rev. McCrea then introduced Melody Klinger, who played on the piano with great enthusiasm "I Sing the Mighty Power of God." Donald Davis next introduced Ms. Maude Thomas and Mrs. Betty Moore, the organist and pianist, respectively, and Mr. Clarence Decker and his daughter, Susan, the soloists for the service. Mr. Davis, Ms. Thomas and Mrs. Moore have led these festivals of song at Bethel Congregational Church for the past 17 years. Mr. Davis then announced that the service was dedicated to the glory

and honor of Jesus Christ and remarked that in the old days "Gymanfaoedd" were always preceded by a rehearsal. Without the benefit of a rehearsal, the congregation then sang "Sandon," "Rachie - Onward Christian Soldiers," and "Penpark - Jesus I Live to Thee."

Melody Klinger then witnessed to her belief in Jesus Christ and played on the piano "It Is Well With My Soul." Melody Klinger is an accomplished musician who makes tapes of religious music and they are available to the public.

The congregation then sang "Pen Y Bryn" and "How Great Thou Art." This was followed by a beautiful solo performance by Clarence Decker of "That Wonderful Mother of Mine." The congregation then sang "Calon Lan - I Seek Not Life's Ease and Pleasures" and "Crimond." Clarence and Susan Decker then sang together "Search Me O Lord." This was followed by the afternoon's offering.

Mr. Davis then pointed out that in the old days Welsh festivals of sacred song used to be day-long events with an afternoon and evening Gymanfa and an open musical program in between. In addition,

the Ladies' Aid Society of the church used to serve a dinner to all who participated.

The congregation at Bethel Congregational Church then sang Mr. Davis' favorite hymn, "Blodwen," and Mr. Davis declared their performance to be very good. This was followed by the congregation's singing of "Aberystwyth."

Susan Decker then sang "Jesus Loves Me" and this was followed by Mr. Davis' teaching the congregation how to say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in Welsh. "Most of us won't see each other again until next June's Gymanfa and I want to be sure and wish you all Merry Christmas and Happy New Year," said Mr. Davis, who then led the congregation in singing "Make Me a Blessing."

In addition to the large group of members from the Bethel Congregational Church, there were many visitors in the church and Mr. Davis polled the group to determine where they lived. Visitors from New Milford,

Gouldsboro and Philadelphia were in the group. Members of the clergy present were Rev. David Allen of Clifford and Rev. and Mrs. Gordon S. Wilson of the Berean Baptist Church of Carbondale. Also from the Berean Baptist Church were Liz Sheridan, Catherine and Marilyn Shoppy, Doris and Francis Tonkin, Elinore Cooper, Hannah Morgan, Donald W. Powell, Donald W. Powell II, and S.R. Powell.

Clarence Decker then sang "Just a Closer Walk With Thee." Rev. McCrea then announced that since the church's public address system had been fixed that the afternoon's service was being broadcast from the church's steeple to shut-ins in the vicinity of the church and that the service could be heard two-thirds of a mile from the church building. Rev. McCrea again thanked Mr. Davis, Ms. Thomas, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Klinger, Mr. Decker and Miss Decker for their participation in the service and remarked that the service was being videotaped by Mr. Davis' son for viewing by Mr. Davis' mother and Uncle Harry.

The congregation then sang "Cwm Rhondda - Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah" and "God Be With You." Rev. McCrea offered a benediction and then invited everyone to the Welsh Tea in the church house across the road from the Bethel Congregational Church.

This beautiful afternoon of song and fellowship was perfectly described by Mrs. Ruth Hasbrouck of Clifford who, at the close of the service, remarked to Mrs. Rachel Machell of Clifford: "Just as nice as ever."

The Welsh settlement of Welsh Hill was begun by Thomas and Hannah Watkins, natives of Carmarthenshire, South Wales, who left that country in 1831, and after a voyage of two months landed in New York.

The present Bethel Congregational Church building (the third in the church's history) was dedicated on June 10, 1988.

## OBITUARIES

*Scranton Times Tribune*  
1-29-05 p. B.9



### Maud D. Thomas

September 28, 2005

Maud D. Thomas, 89, of Clarks Summit, died Wednesday at Community Medical Center.

Born Nov. 20, 1915, in Scranton, daughter of the late Reese and Maud Thomas, she resided in South Abington Township for the past five years. Prior to that, she lived in Scranton and New Jersey.

Before her retirement, she was a music teacher in the Westwood School District, New Jersey, and professor emeritus at Westminster College. She was a graduate of Central High School and the Conservatory of Music, Scranton; obtained a bachelor's degree at Marywood College, and a master's degree at Mansfield State College. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, Clarks Summit, where she served as church organist for 17 years and director of music with friends. She was a member of P.E.O. Sisterhood for more than 50 years, a member of the Harmony Harps, a member of the Marywood and Baptist Bible College orchestras.

She was proficient and a perfectionist in numerous musical instruments, including the organ. She was very proud of her Welsh heritage, attending many Welsh music conferences in her lifetime.

Surviving are three nieces, Deborah L. Benjamin, with whom she resided; Georgiann Henderson, Mechanicville, N.Y.; and Betty Taylor, Marion, Ind.

She was preceded in death by three sisters, Emma Miller, Ethel Thomas and Betty Moore, and a brother, Reese Thomas.

The funeral will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in the First Presbyterian Church, Clarks Summit, with the Rev. William G. Carter, pastor, officiating. Interment, Shady Lane Cemetery, South Abington Township.

Friends may call Friday, 4 to 7 p.m. at the Lawrence E. Young Funeral Home, 418 S. State St., Clarks Summit. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the First Presbyterian Church, 300 School St., Clarks Summit, 18411, or the P.E.O. Sisterhood Chapter A.O. Program for Continuing Education, c/o Sandra Corselius, 2462 Milwaukee Road, Clarks Summit, 18411.

